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Application No.: 10/626,445
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PATENT

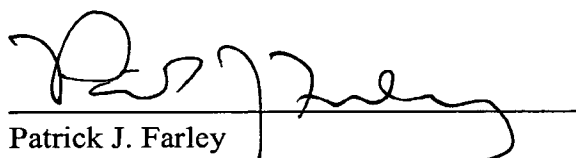
REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9-10, 13, and 16 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 9-10, and 13 are allowed. Claims 6 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,882,893 to Goodearl. Claim 7 stands objected to as dependent on a rejected claim. Claim 6 is amended herein.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. With respect to the claim rejections, Applicants disagree that the term "an amino acid sequence" reads on any size fragment of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8. The article "an" was used because it refers to the first recitation of a claim element. Claim 6 is amended to recite "the amino acid sequence" only to avoid misinterpretation of the claim. Applicants concede no claim scope by way of this amendment. Applicants believe the amendment to claim 6 obviates the remaining rejections.

In view of the amendments submitted herewith and the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully assert that all claims presently pending are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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